

REMARKS

RECOGNITION OF ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant notes the Examiner's recognition of
5 allowable subject matter for claims 15 and 16 with
gratitude.

CLAIM OBJECTION

The reference to "said fitting" in claim 13 has
10 been deleted.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 13, 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC
102(b), for lack of novelty over U.S. Patent 5,117,780
15 (henceforth "Wooten"). Wooten, however, does not show the
animal waste being watered and stirred, in a container in
which the animal waste remains, as recited in amended claim
13. Rather the waste is washed away through an opening,
into a toilet. There is no suggestion in Wooten of treating
20 the animal waste, as recited in the preamble and the last
paragraph of amended claim 13. Claims 17 and 18 are
patentably distinct from Wooten at least for the reason
that claim 13, on which they depend, is patentably distinct
from Wooten.

25 Claims 13, 14, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35
USC 102(b), for lack of novelty over U.S. Patent 4,957,131
(henceforth "Robinson"). Robinson, however does not
disclose solid waste being placed into a container, but
rather an enclosure 22 being placed about solid waste. This
30 is a significant difference, as it would be quite a chore
to lug the apparatus of Robinson about a dog park, as
opposed to simply using a scoop to pick up the various

pieces to dump into the container of claim 13. Moreover,
amended claim 13 states that the waste remains in the
container during the operation, whereas Robinson shows the
waste being washed away by the operation. Claims 14, 18 and
5 19 are patentably distinct from Robinson at least for the
reason that claim 13, on which they depend, is patentably
distinct.

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Respectfully submitted,

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